

faculties he hath, that show a weak
mind and an
able body, for the which the prince
admits him:
for the prince himself is such another;
the weight
of a hair will turn the scales between
their avoirdupois.

HEN. Would not this nave of a
wheel have
his ears cut off?

POINS. Let's beat him before his
whore.

P. HEN. Look, if the withered elder
hath not his
poll clawed like a parrot⁸.

POINS. Is it not strange, that desire
should so
many years outlive performance?

FAL. Kiss me, Doll.

P. HEN. Saturn and Venus this year in
conjunction⁹ what says the almanack to that?

companions he was likely to associate. Falstaff's
meaning will
appear to be, that *he excites no censure for telling*
them modest
stories; or in plain English that he tells them
nothing but *immo-*
dest ones. DOUCE.

7 — NAVE of a WHEEL — Nave and knave
are easily recon-
ciled, but why nave of a wheel? * I suppose
from his round-
ness. He was called *round man* in contempt,
before.

JOHNSON.

So in the play represented before the king and
queen in
Hamlet:

"Break all the spokes and fellies of her
wheel.

"And bowl the *round nave* down the steep of
heaven^{8u}

STEEVENS.

8 — his POLL CLAWED like a parrot. This
custom, we may
suppose, was not peculiar to Falstaff, especially
as it occurred
among the French, to whom we were indebted for
most of our
artificial gratifications. So, in *La Venerie*, &c.
by Jacques de
Fouilloux, &c. Paris, 4to. 1585: "Le seigneur
doit avoir sa
petite charrette, la où il sera dedans, avec sa
fillette, âgée de
seize à dix sept ans, la quelle *lui frotera la teste*
par les che-
mins." A wooden cut annexed, represents this
operation on an
old man, who lies along in his carriage, with a girl
sitting at his
head. STEEVENS.

9 Saturn and Venus this year in conjunction!

This was.
indeed, a prodigy. The astrologers, says Ficinus,
remark, that
Saturn and Venus are never conjoined.
JOHNSON.